



Our church is closed in the current coronavirus pandemic. **Daily Mass is livestreamed at 9.30am on <https://www.facebook.com/trish.bonnett> and posted as an audio file to the homepage of the parish website by 11am daily.**



Newsletter No 1889

2 May – 9 May 2020 – 4th Sunday of Easter – Year A – the gospel according to Matthew

Parish Prayer: Lord Jesus, as the world copes with coronavirus, help us to remember that you are always with us. Grant wisdom to decision makers and bless all health workers. Bring healing to the sick; give peace to the anxious and comfort those who are sad. Stir us to show your love and mercy most especially to the poor and weak. This we ask in your name. Amen.

Readings: Acts:2:14,36-41, 1 Pet 2:20-25, Jn 10:1-10

Entrance Antiphon: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Alleluia!

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next week: Acts:6:1-7, 1 Pet 2:4-9, Jn 14:1-12



Ramblings The gate to the sheepfold

Gates, doors, entrances are invitations to something greater. The best gateways and most interesting doors are those that invite us to pass into the unknown with an expectation of mystery and adventure. Jesus, the gateway, speaks of security and protection for whatever we may encounter on the other side. And the promise written over his gate is *life to the full*. This is what those early converts to Jesus Christ both wanted and experienced. Despite the warning about suffering, even rejection, we would feel cheated if we did not experience some challenge. Otherwise, it would all seem too easy. Although pain and suffering can be signs of something physically wrong, they can also be signs of healing. We exercise a painful limb to get it back into working order. Pain inspires patience, strengthens character, and improves courage. The athlete's mantra is - *Pain is Gain!!* Through his suffering and death, Jesus won life for us and brought us healing. In following Jesus, the Way, we can be instruments of healing through the sufferings we encounter along the way. This is not and never should glorify suffering but offers us an opportunity to give suffering a positive and healing purpose. Jesus has showed us that love and suffering go hand in hand. We suffer whenever those we love suffer from any physical or spiritual setback or failure. In fact, suffering could be seen as the measure of our love for someone; most especially when a loved one dies. In this Easter season, Jesus reminds us that his love for us is so great that he will always be very, very close to us but that in suffering, Jesus will be even closer.

- *God had one son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering.* Saint Augustine

- *True, I am in love with suffering, but I do not know if I deserve the honour.* Saint Ignatius
- *To endure the cross is not tragedy; it is the suffering which is the fruit of an exclusive allegiance to Jesus Christ.* Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Diary Dates

Wed 6th May



12pm Alice Campbell funeral – family only at graveside. Eternal rest give unto her, let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace and rise in glory! Amen.

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6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

A People who Hope in Christ

A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England and Wales is available as an attachment for those who have received this newsletter by email and is also available on the parish website. This letter comes from:

- ✘ Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster
- ✘ Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool
- ✘ Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham
- ✘ George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff
- ✘ John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2020/05/A-People-who-Hope-in-Christ.pdf>

There is also a second text on the website 'A letter from the desert' which as the Cardinal says '... is reflective, sensitive, with a true interiority in its themes. I found that it touched me quite deeply. It is simply an offering at a difficult time.'

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2020/05/A-letter-from-the-desert.pdf>

SPECIAL NEWS ITEM

from parishioners to parishioners

In these extraordinary times we now find ourselves living in, it is uplifting to be able to share some incredibly happy information with you.

The teachers who were dismissed for gross misconduct from our parish school, Our Lady Catholic Primary School in January 2018, took their cases to the Employment Tribunal and have won their cases for Unfair and Constructive Dismissals.

This follows on from the announcement in summer 2019 that the eleven former teachers at the school, who had been referred to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) by the Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust, had all been cleared and that the TRA had closed all cases with no allegations being served.

In both 2006 and 2009, the school was graded Outstanding by Ofsted and the Diocese. The 2014 Inspection on RE by the Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust also graded it Outstanding in every area.

After almost two and half extremely difficult years the Judgment this week is great news for the former stakeholders and pupils of Our Lady Catholic School, as well as our Hitchin parish and wider community. A heartfelt 'thank you' to the parents, pupils and parishioners, who have not wavered in their belief and given such love and support.

Other items of interest

The NHS partners have provided information about how to access Hertfordshire's three pop-up **COVID-19 drive-through test centres** this Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

The pop-up sites in Hertford (Saturdays), Watford (Sundays) and Stevenage (Mondays) have been commissioned by local NHS organisations and are supported by the military. Testing at each site will open at 10am and run until 4pm.

Information about the test criteria, together with an explanation of what to do if you meet the criteria for a test is included in the document which can be found on the parish website.

https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2020/05/Coronavirus_testing_for_Hertfordshire.pdf

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"It's Time To Talk" Podcast Series with Bill Turnbull

If Covid-19 has done anything – it's made us all think about our own mortality. By creating these podcasts we hope to empower listeners to feel more able to talk about their last wishes, as well as help outline some of the things to think about when getting life's admin in order.

Click on link below or go to the Bereavement page of the parish website to access.

<https://www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/podcasts/>



Fr Francois-Joseph Thonnard, known as Le Petit Pere because of his size was a great man. Student of philosophy his **History of Philosophy** became a standard textbook. He was calm quiet and unafraid. He would calm an enraged dog, which everyone feared, with just a few words and kind strokes.

Faith Development Helpline

If you (or someone you know) needs to chat about your faith or have been feeling lost ring

07398821315

Tues/Wed/Thurs 8pm-10pm.
Confidential service provided.
No need to identify yourself



AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 178

Our Daily Love - Conjugal Love - Joy and Beauty
Loving enables me to seek another person's good even when they cannot belong to me, or when they are no longer physically appealing.



If you have a need for prayer, please contact **Mary** on **07759195487** and let her know your prayer intentions

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This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: Monday Team:



If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: **01438 285519** or Email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net